

California, families were cut off from their loved ones living in long-term care facilities. These decisions to isolate long-term care facility residents were fatal and will have long-lasting impacts.

Think of the damage that has been caused to people like Melody Stark of California, whose husband had been living in a nursing home for 5 years prior to the pandemic. In March 2020, Melody was on her way to the nursing home for their usual Friday night dinner date when she got a phone call informing her that nonessential visitors were no longer allowed due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

Who could be more essential than one's lifelong partner and spouse?

Melody recounted that "what we thought would be a couple of weeks turned into months and months. There were no virtual or window visits facilitated, and it felt as if everyone except families were wholly unaware of the impact of isolation, depression, and lack of psychosocial support."

Melody continued by saying: "My usually optimistic husband sounded increasingly sad and said things like: 'This is no way to live,' and he would cry. Over time, this led to drastic decline that affected his physical health as well as his mental health. By November 22, 2020, his health had declined to the point that he was hospitalized and passed away. He did not die from COVID but from failure to thrive due to isolation in long-term care. The last time I hugged my husband was when I carried his ashes from the car to the church."

Mr. Speaker, Melody Stark's husband might still be with us today if he had been allowed access to an essential caregiver. That is why we must take action on H.R. 3733.

I am urging all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to join me because this is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of compassion and doing the right thing for our fellow Americans who so desperately need our help.

Again, I am grateful to my cosponsor, Representative LARSON, who has so graciously come on board, and so many other Members, in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard me share these stories before, and I will continue to share them until the bipartisan Essential Caregivers Act is passed.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TAX CUTS HELPED MIDDLE CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, we have all been forced to suffer through 4 years of hearing the Democrats spreading falsehoods regarding President Trump's middle-class tax cuts.

Over and over again, they claimed, with little fact-checking from their allies in the mainstream media, that this

bill was a tax giveaway to the rich. The Speaker, not trying to be outdone by her colleagues' exaggeration, claimed that the bill was Armageddon.

But, of course, as with many claims from my Democratic colleagues, this runs in contradiction to the actual facts. I will say it again: What government needs is truth, transparency, and consistency from its leaders.

The IRS' own data shows the Democrats have been shamelessly lying about a bill that led to middle-class families keeping more of their hard-earned money and creating more family-sustaining jobs. The data also shows that millions of middle-class Americans received tax cuts ranging anywhere from 16 percent to 26 percent in 2018. We saw employers nationwide provide bonuses to their employees up and down the pay scale.

Median household incomes were on the rise, and the IRS collected more revenue—I am going to say it again—the IRS collected more revenue in 2019 than ever before. Our economy was thriving.

Now that Democrats are in charge, they want to reverse the most successful middle-class tax reform in our Nation's history. They don't just want to return our country to high, uncompetitive tax rates; they actually want to provide a massive tax cut to their elite, coastal friends. They are trying to provide tax breaks to the same wealthy people whom the likes of Senator SANDERS and Speaker PELOSI rail against.

President Biden promised all Americans last year that his plan would go after the evil wealthy. So I ask this: Does this tax break for only the limousine liberals and those living in McMansions sound like President Biden is fulfilling his promise? Or does it, once again, sound like President Biden is deceiving the American people?

But let's not let the facts get in the way of a really good story. I am confident the American people are able to see behind the Democrats' deceit and will be outraged by their giveaways to their rich, elite friends.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### HONORING DIANNE HAMILTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a great friend of mine, a true patriot in New Mexico, Representative Dianne Hamilton, who passed away very recently at the age of 87 after serving for 18 years in the New Mexico House.

Dianne was more than a representative. She was truly my mentor, a colleague, a friend, and a person whom everyone looked up to and aspired to be.

When I say "looked up to," she was over 6 feet tall. She had an incredible personality; she was very quick-witted; and her gift was public service.

She was a military wife, so working for our veterans was something that she held very deeply in her heart. She also had an interest in the people of the communities that she served. She opened up the first domestic violence shelter, so this will be something that lives on in her memory.

Mr. Speaker, to tell you the number of stories about her would take up more than the time allotted today to share with you what an inspiration she was.

What was very unique about Dianne was she was a radio host before she got into the New Mexico House of Representatives. She had a knack for making everybody feel important, whether they were a student who had shown an animal at the local fair or if she was meeting with the Governor or somebody beyond.

She was worthy of every award she was ever given, which were things like the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexican Women. She was given the Citizen of the Year from her respective counties.

The world needs more Dianne Hamiltons because, truly, her gift was her heart. Her gift was helping people like me pioneer the way to public service where we could learn from a true champion. We learned how to work across the aisle, and we learned how to carry bills and negotiate to get what we wanted.

She was an inspiration and will continue to be even after her life because her family is beautiful. She was an inspiring mom, and she is a woman of such great character.

I can't sit here and say enough about her because there just isn't enough time to really give you, Mr. Speaker, all the aspects and all the benefits of having somebody like Dianne Hamilton not only as a friend but also someone who served and served with purpose.

Again, she pioneered the way for people like me to come up behind her. She taught me how to do things, to make relationships happen, and to be successful as now a U.S. Representative and before as a State representative.

The world needs more Dianne Hamiltons. She was a patriot. She was a mom who gave everything to her loving family. She was someone who gave of herself to her community, to her peers, to her friends. Dianne Hamilton is truly a woman's woman, a person who I will dearly miss. I know her family and her community will miss her as well.

And I just will always take with me the two biggest pieces of advice she ever gave me. First, she said, never let anybody see you cry. Fight for what you believe in and do it with all of the character and class that you can.

And number two, never leave your house or your office without your lipstick. Those are the important things I will always remember.

I am forever indebted to her, her family, and we will miss her.

□ 1215

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLARA BARTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross. December 25 will be Clara's 200th birthday.

Clara is one of the most honored women in American history. From a young age she was dedicated to service and helping others.

Clara started her career in Washington, D.C., as one of the first women to work in the Federal Government. She was in D.C. at the start of the Civil War, and while residents in the capital were alarmed and confused, Clara recognized the immediate need to help these newly recruited troops.

Clara spent the early days of the war collecting food and supplies for the Union Army, but she knew that, despite her efforts in Washington, there was more work left to be done.

She lobbied leaders in the government and the Union Army to give her passes to bring her voluntary services to the battlefield. From that moment on, Clara and her volunteers risked their lives heading to the scenes of battle and field hospitals to volunteer their time and deliver needed medical services.

Following her volunteer service in the Civil War, Clara visited Europe and was introduced to the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. There she learned of the Geneva Treaty, an international agreement to protect the sick and wounded during wartime without respect to nationality, and for the formation of national societies to give aid voluntarily on a neutral basis.

Clara was a woman of action. When she saw a need, she found practical ways to address it. After learning of this global Red Cross Network, Clara returned to the United States and would fight for the ratification of this treaty by the United States.

In 1881, Clara founded the American Red Cross and, in 1882, the United States would sign the Geneva Convention treaty. The American Red Cross received their first congressional charter in 1900. For 20 years, Clara would lead the Red Cross on countless service missions to towns and cities around the United States in need of emergency assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoring Clara Barton because of the historic connection to Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District. In 1889, Clara Barton and 50 Red Cross volunteers arrived in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to help the survivors of the Johnstown flood caused by a dam break which led to over 2,000 deaths.

Today, the house that served as the headquarters of the Red Cross and Clara's mission in Johnstown still stands on Main Street. This home is a piece of history in Johnstown, and residents are in the process of restoring it.

Clara Barton continued her service to helping others up until her passing in 1912. Today, over 140 years later, the Red Cross continues its service through its strong network of volunteers, donors, and partners. They continue to serve those in need by mobilizing the power of volunteers in times of emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, Clara Barton's passion for service is an example for us all. Her selflessness and determination to help others continues to inspire us today.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we remember. On this 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, that day lives in infamy, having left its indelible mark on countless individuals, families, and our American history.

On that fateful Sunday morning, our country was alerted to the precariousness of our days and the certainty of our future.

God, we remember. Call us back to the unity borne from that sudden insult on our liberty. Remind us how our country rallied as one to uphold our freedoms.

God, we remember. Bring to our memory the sense of shared meaning and shared sacrifices that our forebears held onto fiercely as they rallied in response to fight our enemies and cling to the essential values of family and faith.

God, we do remember. May we always tell of the innumerable acts of heroism in the face of the horrific acts that reached our country's shores and threatened our Nation's sense of security and welfare.

Holy God, even as we remember the horror of that day, we yearn for those days when a country as diverse and divided as we are could rally against the ageless enemies of divisiveness, unbridled power, and injustice.

Then as now, You prove to be the constant defender of our freedom and

the source of our hope. In response to Your mercy, may we remember and once again seek to preserve and uphold our shared moral understandings and to demonstrate our mutual respect, that we would ever protect all that is good and holy, acceptable, and perfect. In Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DICK SCHIMMEL

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local hero from my district in the Greater Lehigh Valley who served at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked 80 years ago today.

Dick Schimmel was 19 when, on the morning of December 7, 1941, he was roused from sleep by fellow servicemen with the sound of explosions striking the American Naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Mr. Schimmel is a lifelong resident of Allentown, and a consummate American hero who joined the Army in August of 1940, serving as a radar specialist as part of the 580th Signal Aircraft Warning Company, before returning to Pennsylvania, where he sold appliances for Sears for 34 years.

Today is a solemn day as we reflect on the legacy of a day that President Roosevelt wisely said would "live in infamy." We lost 2,335 servicemen that day and an additional 68 civilians, not to mention countless more with injuries, both visible and invisible.

As the daughter of an Air Force veteran, I want to thank Mr. Schimmel for his heroism in Pearl Harbor 80 years ago.

#### FIRST AMENDMENT APPLIES TO COLLEGE CAMPUSES TOO

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)